**A Life Lived for God [The Book of Joshua]**

**98-Facing Giants at Any Age - Joshua 14:10-15 (05-21-2023)**

**Joshua 14:10-15** *10And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. 11As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. 12Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. 13And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. 14Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. 15And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath–arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.*

**Key Points Today**

1. Every Day is a Gift from God
2. Spiritual Strength Doesn’t Diminish with Age
3. Real Strength is Derived from God
4. God Rewards Faithfulness

**Numbers 14:30-38** *30Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. 32But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness. 33And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness. 34After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. 35I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. 36And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, 37Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. 38But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.*

1. **Every Day is a Gift from God [Reference Joshua 14:10]**
* *“And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive,…”* Caleb knows that the only reason he is alive is because of God’s grace and mercy.
* *“…he wholly followed the Lord…”* Caleb was “all in” when it came to his commitment to following God.
* **This commitment is what it takes to wholly follow Jesus. Mark 8:31-35** *31And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. 34And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*
* **Our lives are not our own, they are the Lord’s. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *19What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
* **David had the same kind of dependence on God. Psalms 39:4-5** *4LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. 5Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.*
* **Every day is a gift from God! James 4:13-15** *13Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*
* **Proverbs 27:1** *1Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

**What if we started living our lives for the glory of God?**

Start every morning thanking the Lord for the gift of another day.

1. **Spiritual Strength Doesn’t Diminish with Age [Reference Joshua 14:11]**
* At 85 Caleb is just as committed and dependent upon God as he has ever been.
* **In Exodus 15, Moses led the people in a song of celebration after great victory over Egypt at the Red Sea**. **Exodus 15:1-2** *1Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.*
* ***“The Lord is my strength…”***
* **As long as there’s breath in our lungs, we need to share of His great love. 1 Peter 3:15** *15But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
1. **Real Strength is Derived from God [Reference Joshua 14:12]**
* *“12…if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.”*
* **He has faith in God’s Presence.** *“12…if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out,…”*
* **He has faith in God’s Promise. “***12…as the Lord said.”*
* **Exodus 23:27-31** *27I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. 28And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. 29I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. 30By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. 31And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.*
* **Caleb humbly followed the Lord and trusted in Him completely. He was not prideful or arrogant, never heady or high-minded.**
* **Proverbs 29:23** *23A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*
* **Matthew 23:12** *12And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*
* **God uses the humble to do great things for His Kingdom. James 4:7-8** *7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.* **Not partially! Not mostly! Caleb wholly followed the Lord!!! James 4:9-10** *9Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*
* **God is looking for humble vessels for the Spirit to work through.** **2 Timothy 2:20** *20But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.*
1. **God Rewards Faithfulness [Reference Joshua 14:13-15]**
* After 45 years, Caleb gets the desire of his heart… *“…because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.”*
* **God rewarded Caleb because of his faithfulness.**
* The Lord sets conditions for His work in His children. We see this repeated with “if” we do our part, “then” He does His part.
* **Exodus 19:4-5** *4Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. 5Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*
* **2 Chronicles 7:14** *14If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
* **John 8:31-32** *31Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
* God sets expectations and then consistently either rewards obedience or disciplines disobedience. He has given us the gift of consistency.
* **Malachi 3:6** *6For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
* **Hebrews 13:8** *8Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*
* **Numbers 23:19** *19God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

We can count on the fact that the Lord will do His part!

Our beliefs and standards are not determined by cultural norms or trending viewpoints, but by the Holy word of God.

Caleb was blessed mightily by God for never wavering in his trust and dedication to the mission the Lord had given him.

**We should also be prepared to “Face Giants at any Age”**

**98-Facing Giants at Any Age - Joshua 14:10-15 (05-21-2023) -** (Bible Study Questions)

1. In following Caleb’s story and his conversation with Joshua about he and his people’s inheritance, we took note of Caleb’s incredible level of dependence upon the Lord. He literally trusted God for every day of his life. Search the scripture and give at least one verse that reflects this kind of dependence.

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Bonus: Please share what you believe would be the impact in someone’s life if they lived with this level of dependence upon the Lord. (Please share from an emotional, physical and spiritual perspective).

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2. Caleb’s dependence and commitment to the Lord for his daily life reflected a tremendous since of gratitude. Please explain the impact that having a thankful perspective on life can have in the way people live day to day.

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Bonus: If you were to make an honest assessment of the way you approach life, would you say that it’s generally thankful? If so, please explain the impact this has on how you deal with adversity. If not, please explain the impact that ingratitude has had on your life.

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3. At age 85 Caleb was ready to go to war against the mighty forces of evil. How was he able to have this attitude?

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Bonus: Who else in scripture had a similar level of dependence upon the Lord when it came to facing adversity? (Please describe their dependence)

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Bonus Bonus: What things does the enemy use to deter you from fulfilling the mission God’s given us to share the truth with the world? Why does it work on you?

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4. Caleb’s story reveals that his confidence was not in himself, but God. What can we do on a daily basis to reduce our confidence in ourselves, while increasing our level of confidence in God?

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Bonus: Are you currently doing what you answered above? If so, please explain the impact it has on your daily life. If not, then why?

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5. Our message reinforced the principle that God rewards faithfulness. Please give at least 2 Biblical examples of this truth on display.

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6. If God rewards faithfulness, which He does, please give at least one Biblical example of God punishing unfaithfulness. (Please explain the ultimate impact of God’s punishment.)

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**HOPE Prayer List- May 21, 2023**

**Prayers for our Church & Mission Partners**

* For revival in the church, for spiritual protection over the ministry and God’s servants
* For the power of His hand on our ministry & members & ***NEW Laborers!***
* For our children’s and teen ministries. For our music ministry, our young adults, and all those in discipleship.
* For all to be involved in the work of the Lord - **Matthew 28:19-20**
* **Pray for our missions trip to Malawi – June 5-17**

**Prayers for God’s Healing, Mercy, and Grace**

* Granny (Christine’s mom) – please pray for her to have God’s grace and peace
* Anne-Marie – healing/restoration (Christine’s sister)
* Matthew Argo - health, physical strength, and wellbeing
* Sylvia Pauling - healing and recovery.
* Karen Adams – health and the right medication
* Rebekah Ratliff - restoration from COVID, & new job
* Izabel Lemmond - migraines to stop.
* Yulia Nosova – complete healing from dizziness
* Jack – power of God in his life
* Kire Elsasser – complete recovery surgery
* Irina McGee – healing from surgery, broken hip
* Elena Cepeda – healing from cancer
* Miko Hall – blood pressure, insomnia, eyes to heal and for her grandchildren, Keyshawn & Bonnie who have strep
* The Elsasser Family with the passing of his dad, funeral is on May 27 – for grace and comfort
* Suzanne & Brian need comfort and grace during grieving.
* Bonnie- prayer for her cancer struggles (Alisa’s friend)
* Candra- healing and recovery from illness
* Jun Rodrigo (our missionary to the Philippines) – cancer
* Jonathan (Liz’s son) safety in the Ultra Marathon
* Brother Elvan – healing from ear infection and pain
* Gandy’s pregnancy (Karen’s daughter)
* Baby BJ - heart transplant (friend of Lauretta Boyd)
* Inna (Yulia’s mom) – health/protection
* Sunnie – brain tumor (Jessica/James McGee)
* Tony (Pearl’s son) -surgery, healing and recovery
* Thelma (Pearl’s family)- she has cancer and Hospice has been called in
* Christina (Alana’s friend) - medical condition
* Teresa Lambert – breast cancer (friend of Tony Buttrick)
* Mike Ormseth – passed last week, pray for his family
* Madhuben – Mother of a coworker in ICU. Needs healing and salvation.
* Ann Mansfield – God willing, her bone marrow transplant will be in June
* Sonja Mansfield - Pray that her cancer does not return
* Kristy Judy – has ALS, praying for God’s mercy & grace
* Bridget and family (Yulia’s friends) – for God’s grace in their grieving & for them to come to church

**Prayers of Intercession: Changed Hearts, Spiritual Protection, and God’s Restoration**

* Jessie, Aaron, Tucker, Tripp & Serenity - to come to church.
* Blessing of a pregnancy for Kim and for Tashya
* Aubrey (Alisa’s daughter) - God’s guidance and protection over her.
* Tina: Prayer for her/family: for spiritual protection and guidance Christian’s restoration and guidance
* Alana & Ryan- for God’s will/timing & glory in this season of their lives.
* Shannen Deen – Continued spiritual growth
* David (Alina’s husband) spiritual healing
* Dina (Alina’s sister) to find peace with her mom
* Ben (Liz’s son) for the right job in a place good for his spiritually and for God’s will.
* Kevin’s cousin, Brian, for God to bring restoration
* Kevin – for his siblings to have open hearts for reconciliation.
* Hannah (Candra/Harold’s daughter) salvation and restoration
* Derrick (Pastor/Christine’s son-in-law) – job in NC
* Josie McCall- God’s protection and will (Riley’s friend)
* Jeewan alcohol addiction and reconciliation with his parents.
* Kalli (Charley’s sister) for comfort and God’s peace.
* Tony (Alisa’s brother) For his salvation and reconciliation with his family.
* Karen Adams - Spiritual protection, guidance for her and her family
* Family unity and God’s will regarding Liz’s mother’s care and for God to bring a new caretaker

**Requests For Deliverance, Salvation, and Changed Hearts**

**Miko**: Alan (son) and Rina (sister); **Alana:** Khubush, Nisit, Deo (dad), Jeewan (borther), Tesh and Kim; **Dexter:** Lecie and Jose **Izabel’s** extended family; **Karen’s children**: Gandy and Tyler; **Erik:** Kristen (sister) & Javier; **Yulia:** Inna (mom). Shane Adams and Aubrey; Nate Erdtmann (friend of Christine) **Yulia:** Olga & Bogdun, **Tony Buttrick asked we pray for salvation for**: Xheva Ahmeti, Ann, Sonja, and Bob Mansfield, Tom Ormseth, Madhuben and pray for Tony’s coworkers and family members in the Ukraine – for salvation and safety